

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 08083 191311Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----111322 191322Z /46
O 191212Z OCT 77 ZFF-6
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8782
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDD PRIORITY
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NY PRIORITY

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 8083

EXDIS TREAT AS NODIS

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS PBOR MILI IS LE
SUBJ: SOUTH LEBANON

REF: (A) BEIRUT 5177, (B) DAMASCUS 6445, (C) TEL AVIV 7943,
(D) STATE 250648

1. WE AGREE WITH AMBASSADOR PARKER THAT WE ARE NEARING -
OR PERHAPS HAVE EVEN ENTERED - A CRUCIAL PHASE SO FAR
AS THE FUTURE OF SHTAURA ACCORD IS CONCERNED (REFTEL
A). WE FURTHER CONCUR THAT AN ADDITIONAL DEMARCHE
TO THE SYRIANS AND AN EFFORT TO ENLIST SAUDI SUPPORT
ARE VERY MUCH IN ORDER (REFTEL D). WHILE AMBASSADOR
MURPHY IS OBVIOUSLY THE BEST JUDGE ON HOW TO HANDLE
HIS APPROACH, FROM OUR VANTAGE POINT WE THINK IT WOULD
BE HELPFUL IF IN HIS FORTHCOMING CONVERSATION WITH THE
SYRIANS HIS BRIEF INCLUDE SOME SPECIFIC INTELLIGENCE
DATA ON WHO IS DOING WHAT TO WHOM IN SOUTH LEBANON,
E.G., WHO IS SHOOTING, WHO IS NOT WITHDRAWING, ETC.
WE WOULD HOPE THIS WOULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF MAKING IT
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 TEL AV 08083 191311Z

MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE SYRIANS TO WRIGGLE OFF THE
HOOK WITH THE TYPE OF FACILE RESPONSE THEY GAVE US
LAST WEEK (REFTEL B).

2. AS FOR THE ISRAELIS, WE ARE IN FULL AGREEMENT WITH
THE DEPARTMENT THAT THERE IS NO MERIT AT THE MOMENT IN
GOING BACK TO THEM, AT LEAST UNTIL THE OBSCURITIES OF

THE SITUATION BECOME CLEARER TO THE POINT OF BEING MERELY MURKY. WE SHARE THE DEPARTMENTS ASSESSMENT OF THE GENERAL RESTRAINT IN REGARD TO THE DETERIORATION OF THE CEASEFIRE WHICH THE ISRAELIS HAVE MANIFESTED IN RECENT DAYS. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, BEYOND THE INCIDENTS REPORTED IN REFTEL C THEY HAVE NOT REACTED, I.E., IN A MILITARY SENSE, TO ANY OF THE NUMEROUS CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS BEYOND REFUSING TO MEET AGAIN WITH THE LEBANESE WHILE SHOOTING CONTINUES. WE HAVE SEEN NO CONFIRMED INTELLIGENCE TO INDICATE THEY ARE NOT LIVING UP TO THEIR COMMITMENT TO RESTRAIN THE CHRISTIAN MILITIA AS BEST THEY CAN. NOR ARE WE AWARE OF ANY SIGNIFICANT RESUPPLY OPERATIONS OF THE CHRISTIAN FORCES, DESPITE THE FACT THE GOI IS CONVINCED THE PALESTINIANS ARE INVOLVED IN A MAJOR RESUPPLY EFFORT, ARE BUILDING NEW DEFENSES AND IMPROVING OLD ONES, AND ARE INFILTRATING INTO THE AREA FRESH TROOPS. TRUE, THE ISRAELIS ARE BALKING AT RETURNING TO ILMAC MEETINGS, BUT SINCE THE LEBANESE THEMSELVES DONT WISH TO FOR THE PRESENT (REFTEL A) WE SEE NO LOGIC IN URGING THE ISRAELIS TO DO SO. IF ALL THIS SOUNDS AS IF WE ARE ABOUT TO SANCTIFY WEIZMAN AND COMPANY, REST ASSURED WE ARE NOT. BUT WE THINK IT IMPORTANT TO GIVE THE ISRAELIS CREDIT FOR CAUTION AND PRUDENCE WHEN MERITED.

3. IF THE ISRAELIS ARE NOT YET AWARE OF THE PLO'S NEW
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 TEL AV 08083 191311Z

CONDITIONS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE SHTAURA ACCORD, THEY SOON WILL BE. WHATEVER THE REASON FOR ARAFAT'S SECOND THOUGHTS ON WITHDRAWAL, ANY BALKING BY THE PALESTINIANS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF SHTAURA WILL CERTAINLY NOT LEAD TO A SOFTENING OF THE ISRAELI POSITION. QUITE THE CONTRARY, WE CAN ANTICIPATE BEING REMINDED "WE TOLD YOU SO," FOR THE ISRAELIS HAVE NEVER BEEN CONVINCED THAT THE PALESTINIANS WOULD HONOR THEIR SHTAURA COMMITMENTS. NOR FOR THAT MATTER HAVE THE ISRAELIS EVER BELIEVED THAT GENERAL KHOURY'S TROOPS COULD EFFECTIVELY CONTROL THE SITUATION ONCE THEY MOVED SOUTH. THE ISRAELIS MAKE NO EFFORT TO DISGUISE THEIR DISDAIN FOR THE LACK OF DISCIPLINE AND FIGHTING COMPETENCE OF THE LAF.

4. THERE WOULD BE A SERIOUS REACTION HERE TO ANY PALESTINIAN EFFORT TO TIE A WITHDRAWAL OF THEIR FORCES WITH A MUTUAL WITHDRAWAL OF CHRISTIAN FORCES. THIS JUST WILL NOT WASH. THE ISRAELI INVESTMENT IN THE CHRISTIAN MILITIA AND THE GOI POLITICAL VISION OF A SOUTH LEBANON POPULATED BY PEOPLE FRIENDLY TO ISRAEL ARE MUCH TOO IMPORTANT TO PERMIT THE PALESTINIANS TO GET AWAY WITH SUCH JIGGERY POKERY. IT

IS DIFFICULT TO CONJURE UP A SCENARIO WHICH WOULD RE-
ENGAGE THE ISRAELIS FASTER IN THE SOUTH LEBANON
SECENE THAN IF THE GOL WERE TO AGREE TO SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT.

5. ONE MILDLY INTRIGUING SIDELINE TO THIS OTHERWISE
DISMAL SITUATION IS THE APPARENT TOTAL ABSENCE OF
REACTION IN BEIRUT (AND ELSEWHERE IN THE ARAB WORLD)
TO THE PUBLICITY GIVEN BY RADIO MONTE CARLO AND SUB-
SEQUENTLY BY THE ISRAELIS TO THE FIRST ILMAC MEETING.
DESPITE ALL THE DIRE WARNINGS FROM BOUTROS OF THE
IMPLICATIONS TO THIS ENTERPRISE SHOULD THE WRAPS BE
LIFTED, NOTHING SEEMS TO HAVE HAPPENED. WE ARE PUZZLED
AND WONDER IF PERHAPS WE HAVE SUCCESSFULLY GOT OVER
THE FIRST HURDLE OF ISRAELIS AND LEBANESE TALKING
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 TEL AV 08083 191311Z

WITH ONE ANOTHER WITHOUT THE ARAB WORLD CAVING IN. LEWIS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, PEACE, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MUTUAL FORCE REDUCTIONS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TELAV08083
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: EXDIS TREAT AS NODIS
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P850106-1739
Format: TEL
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771041/aaaabirw.tel
Line Count: 137
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 782b832b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, EXDIS
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, EXDIS
Reference: 77 BEIRUT 5177, 77 DAMASCUS 6445, 77 TEL AVIV 7943, 77 STATE 250648
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 855762
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOUTH LEBANON
TAGS: MOPS, PBOR, MILI, IS, LE, XF
To: STATE SS MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/782b832b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009